

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A process for fabricating a multidirectional fibrous reinforcement ~~designed to be a porous preform for use in~~ producing a part made of a composite material, said process comprising the steps of:

providing a deposition finger for use in a deposition step to depositing at least one reinforcing thread in at least two successive layers on a support surface wherein said deposition finger comprises a presser head that is shaped to exert pressure on said reinforcing thread, said deposition finger extending from a deposition head and being movable relative to said deposition head;

providing a binder in association with said reinforcing thread so as to adhere said reinforcing thread to said support surface wherein said binder also provides a bond between said successive layers; and

using said deposition finger to pressing said reinforcing thread against the support surface during said depositing step in a manner that exerts a pressure substantially perpendicular to said support surface at the point where the thread is deposited.

Claim 2 (original) A process for fabricating a multidirectional fibrous reinforcement according to claim 1 wherein said reinforcing thread is advanced as the reinforcing thread is deposited so as not to cause any tension in said reinforcing thread and so as to deposit the thread without tension.

Claim 3 (original) A process for fabricating a multidirectional fibrous reinforcement according to claim 1 wherein said step of providing said binder in association with said reinforcing thread comprises the step of activating said binder as the reinforcing thread is deposited.

Claim 4 (original) A process for fabricating a multidirectional fibrous reinforcement according to claim 1 wherein said step of providing said binder in association with said

reinforcing thread comprises depositing said binder on said support surface ahead of the reinforcing thread while the reinforcing thread is being deposited.

Claim 5 (currently amended) A process for fabricating a multidirectional fibrous reinforcement according to claim 1 wherein said step of depositing reinforcing thread is accomplished using a deposit finger having a presser head that is shaped to exert said pressure on the reinforcing thread and comprises a thread guide groove in said deposit finger for leading said reinforcing thread to the presser head.

Claim 6 (currently amended) A process for fabricating a multidirectional fibrous reinforcement according to claim 5 1 wherein said pressure is exerted perpendicular to the surface of the presser head on the deposit finger and wherein the surface of the presser head is kept substantially tangent to the support surface while the reinforcing thread is being deposited thereon.

Claim 7 (currently amended) A process for fabricating a multidirectional fibrous reinforcement according to claim 5 1 wherein said step of depositing reinforcing thread comprises using a plurality of deposition fingers to simultaneously depositing several reinforcing threads on said support surface in parallel deposit trajectories.

Claim 8 (original) A process for fabricating a multidirectional fibrous reinforcement according to claim 1 wherein said binder comprises a thermoplastic powder and wherein the area where the reinforcing thread is to be deposited is heated.

Claim 9 (original) A process for fabricating a multidirectional fibrous reinforcement according to claim 8 wherein said thermoplastic powder is co-deposited onto said support surface with said reinforcing thread.

Claim 10 (original) A process for fabricating a multidirectional fibrous reinforcement according to claim 9 wherein said reinforcing thread is covered at least partially with said thermoplastic powder.

Claim 11 (original) A process for fabricating a multidirectional fibrous reinforcement according to claim 8 wherein said support surface is covered at least partially with a thermoplastic powder prior to deposition of said reinforcing thread thereon.

Claim 12 (original) A process for fabricating a multidirectional fibrous reinforcement according to claim 1 wherein said binder comprises a hot-melt resin that is deposited on said support surface when said reinforcing thread is being deposited thereon and wherein said hot-melt resin is deposited ahead of the deposit of the reinforcing thread on said support surface.

Claim 13 (original) A process for fabricating a multidirectional fibrous reinforcement according to claim 1 wherein said binder comprises a thermoplastic thread wrapped around the reinforcing thread to form a binder/reinforcement thread and wherein said binder/reinforcement thread is heated at the point where said binder/reinforcement thread is deposited.

Claim 14 (original) A process for fabricating a multidirectional fibrous reinforcement according to claim 1 wherein said binder comprises a pulverizable solution or emulsion of at least one adhesive resin.

Claim 15 (original) A process for fabricating a multidirectional fibrous reinforcement according to claim 1 wherein said binder is bound to the reinforcing thread so as to form a hybrid reinforcing thread comprising said binder and said reinforcing thread.

Claim 16 (original) A process for fabricating a multidirectional fibrous reinforcement according to claim 1 wherein said reinforcing thread is deposited in discontinuing segments.

Claim 17 (original) A process for fabricating a multidirectional fibrous reinforcement according to claim 1 wherein said support surface comprises an area having a concave or convex shape and wherein said reinforcing thread is deposited at least in said area of the support surface that has said concave or convex shape.

Claim 18 (currently amended) A process for fabricating a multidirectional fibrous reinforcement according to claim 1 wherein said pressure exerted against said reinforcing thread by said presser head is between 0.01 and 30 bar.

Claim 19 (original) A process for fabricating a multidirectional fibrous reinforcement according to claim 1 wherein the location where the reinforcing thread is deposited on said support surface is heated to a temperature of between 50 and 450°C.

Claims 20 – 39 (canceled)

Claim 40 (new) A process for fabricating a multidirectional fibrous reinforcement according to claim 1 wherein said deposition finger includes a longitudinal axis which extends from said deposition head to said presser head and wherein said deposition finger is moved in relation to said deposition head during said deposition step by rotation about said longitudinal axis.

Claim 41 (new) A process for fabricating a multidirectional fibrous reinforcement according to claim 1 wherein said deposition finger includes a longitudinal axis which extends from said deposition head to said presser head and wherein said deposition finger is extended and/or retracted along said longitudinal axis in relation to said deposition head during said deposition step.

Claim 42 (new) A process for fabricating a multidirectional fibrous reinforcement according to claim 40 wherein said deposition finger is extended and/or retracted along said longitudinal axis in relation to said deposition head during said deposition step.